

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## SECURING THE CITIES ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, and Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3493, the "Securing the Cities Act of 2015," which will require the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection to create a Securing the Cities program.

The codification of the Securing the Cities Program under H.R. 3493, will:

1. Assist state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in creating and implementing, or perfecting existing structures for coordinated and integrated detection and interdiction of nuclear or other radiological materials that are out of regulatory control;

2. Support the creation of a region-wide operating capability to identify and report on nuclear and other radioactive materials out of operational control;

3. Provide resources to improve detection, analysis, communication, and organization to better integrate state, local, tribal, and territorial property into federal operations;

4. Facilitate the establishment of protocol and processes to effectively respond to threats posed by nuclear or radiological materials being acquired or used by terrorists; and

5. Designate participating jurisdictions from among high-risk urban areas and other cities and regions, as appropriate, and notify Congress at least three days before designating or changing such jurisdictions.

H.R. 3493 would also require the Comptroller General to investigate and assess the effectiveness of the "Securing the Cities Program."

The potential for a terrorist attack using nuclear or radiological material is low, but should it occur the consequences would be catastrophic, and for this reason we cannot be lax in our efforts to deter, detect and defeat attempts by terrorists to perpetrate such a heinous act of terrorism.

I represent the 18th Congressional District of Texas, which is located in the Houston area, which is the 4th largest city in the United States and home to over 2 million residents.

Earlier this year the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that the city of Houston would receive \$30 million dollars over 5 years under the Securing the Cities Program.

The funding, came from DHS's Domestic Nuclear Office and, will be used to work with partners in the Houston area to build a robust, regional nuclear detection capability for law enforcement and first responder organizations.

This is an important federal effort to increase the ability of major urban cities to de-

tect and protect against radiological and nuclear threats.

The Securing Cities Program began in 2006 as a pilot project for the New York City region.

The cities and regions that are participating include Washington DC/National Capital Region, New York City, Los Angeles/Long Beach area, and now Houston Texas.

The DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office provides equipment and assistance to regional partners in conducting training and exercises to further their nuclear detection capabilities and coordinate with federal operations.

Unfortunately, the age of terrorism makes this a more dangerous and uncertain time than the decades following World War II when nation/state nuclear arsenals were being created.

I am pleased that Houston is at the forefront of nuclear safety in our country, and it is time to make the Securing the Cities Program vital for all of our major cities to catch up.

Nuclear threats are more perilous than what our nation faced during the Cold War because these threats come from non-state actors who often do not have the same level of concern for the wellbeing of their people who may face the consequences of a nuclear attack against the United States.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution.

## HONORING RAY GARON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MANCHESTER RADIO GROUP AFTER MORE THAN 20 YEARS

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to Ray Garon on his retirement after 20 plus years with the Manchester Radio Group, and thank him for the outstanding work he did during his career.

Mr. Garon's broad expertise in the radio business has been instrumental to the growth of local stations such as WZID-AM, WFEA-AM, The Mill and Hot Hits. Over the last twenty years with the Manchester Radio Group he has been an integral part of the community and his leadership will be greatly missed.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Ray Garon on his retirement, and wish him the best on all future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF BISHOP W. W. HAMILTON

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bishop W. W. Hamilton on the occasion of the 35th pastoral anniversary of his leadership of the Greater Victory Temple Church of God in Christ in Seaside, California. Bishop Hamilton is a beacon of service to God and his community and an example of love and compassion for all to follow. Under his leadership, Greater Victory Temple has grown into one of the strongest community pillars of the Monterey Peninsula and all of northern California.

Bishop Hamilton was born in San Antonio, Texas. He followed his father, the late Bishop E.E. Hamilton, on the path of religious service and received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Simpson College in San Francisco. He then served as the founding pastor of the Hamilton Memorial Church of God In Christ in San Francisco, California. In 1987, W.W. Hamilton was consecrated as the Bishop and Prelate of the California Northwest Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ, the church his father had established.

In 1980 Bishop Hamilton was appointed to serve as Pastor of the Victory Temple Church of God In Christ of Seaside, California. Under his Pastoral leadership a new church building was completed and on March 16, 1984, the Great Victory Church of God In Christ was dedicated debt free. In addition to the remodeling, Bishop Hamilton sought to provide housing and family resources to his community.

Bishop Hamilton has also focused his leadership on community service. He served as the executive director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Later, under his leadership, the Greater Victory Temple has become a force for community service on the Monterey Peninsula. It offers services for youth such as after school tutoring programs, a community computer lab, after school chess club, and hosts scout groups. It also offers a food pantry in partnership with the local food bank, divorce counseling, works with other community organizations to bring peace to the community, and has invested in community based senior housing.

Throughout his 35 years of leadership, Greater Victory Temple has impacted the lives of countless people within the Seaside and surrounding Monterey Peninsula communities. All those who have had the pleasure to meet Bishop Hamilton know first hand his love and personal commitment to his congregation and surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in extending our deepest gratitude to Bishop Hamilton for his many years of dedication to the Greater Victory Temple family and the broader community of the Monterey County and Northern California. Our world is a better place because of his efforts.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

## JUDICIAL REDRESS ACT OF 2015

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan H.R. 1428, the "Judicial Redress Act of 2015."

H.R. 1428 is important bill that will help conclude longstanding negotiations to improve the framework for data transfers between law enforcement agencies in United States and Europe.

European nations have long provided privacy protections to U.S. citizens and this legislation would reciprocate that practice.

If enacted, the Judicial Redress Act would extend the legal rights granted to American citizens under the 1974 Privacy Act to citizens of select foreign nations.

Specifically, those individuals would be given the ability to seek access to records private entities turn over to U.S. government officials as part of criminal investigations and they would be able to correct those records if they contain false information, as well as get redress from the government if those records were turned over illegally.

Under the current law, U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents are able to sue the United States for intentional and willful public disclosures of law enforcement information that injures those citizens.

The same rights should be afforded to our closest allies and those we entrust with our privacy protection and hold accountable for reciprocal offenses.

Let me express my appreciation to Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations, Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CONYERS for their leadership and commitment to privacy protection and accountability to our foreign allies.

As a nation that aims to uphold the principles of justice and fairness, it is time that we ensure that all those engaged with our nation are afforded these core protections.

The Judicial Redress Act upholds these principles by providing critical remedies to citizens of designated U.S. allies who have been unfairly targeted by American surveillance and law enforcement activities.

By extending legal rights afforded under the 1974 Privacy Act to citizens of select foreign nations, we all benefit.

Citizens of the United States benefit from privacy protections in other countries, and the Judicial Redress Act provides reciprocal trust and assurances that our closest allies will be treated fairly and justly.

Strengthening international relationships and building trust backed by our government is essential to our national security and economic growth.

Passing the Judicial Redress Act simply is the right thing to do.

H.R. 1428 will ensure greater cooperation among international law enforcement agencies, and encourage these nations to share critical law enforcement information with one another.

H.R. 1428 will also mend critical relationships between American businesses and international consumers by restoring trust that

transnational data will be kept secure and protected.

International consumers will feel more comfortable sharing their information allowing for the free-flow of data and commerce.

This legislation is endorsed by the Department of Justice and federal law enforcement agencies and broadly supported by tech companies and businesses, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Trans-Atlantic Business Council, the Internet Infrastructure Coalition, and other groups.

The Judicial Redress Act is a step in the right direction to ensure continued advancement in the technology industry, international corporate competitiveness, and demonstrated leadership in privacy protection and upholding foundational legal rights.

For all of these reasons, I support H.R. 1428 and urge my colleagues to join me.

# RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM TO HONOR AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II

**HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of the National WWII Museum to honor African American veterans of World War II. Most notably, I would like to commend the Museum on its outstanding exhibit, "Fighting for the Right to Fight: African American Experiences in World War II."

African Americans played a vital role in securing Allied victory in World War II and their service helped to preserve democratic institutions in the United States and around the world. The contributions of African Americans during wartime spanned all areas of the war effort, from military combat to domestic manufacturing.

Unfortunately, the same patriotic citizens who sacrificed and risked their lives in the war effort also faced discrimination in military and civilian life. In many cases, African Americans were denied the very liberties they fought to defend. These experiences led many African American soldiers to a dual mission: to win the war and to secure freedoms at home, a movement that would come to be known as the "Double Victory" campaign. The modern Civil Rights Movements would rise from these historic moments during wartime.

The award-winning exhibit, which opened on July 4, 2015, is a landmark contribution that displays the foundational work by twentieth century African Americans to seek comprehensive social change. The exhibit will remain at the National World War II Museum until May 2016, when it will begin a two-year tour of museums around the country. The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Veterans Braintrust, supported by President Obama and the First Lady, distinguished the efforts of the National WWII Museum with the 2015 Veterans Braintrust Award.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the National WWII Museum for their leadership and recognition of the tireless contributions from all Americans during times of war. The unwavering dedication of African Americans to protecting Amer-

ica's values of freedom and liberty is an example for all citizens.

# RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL IN MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manchester, New Hampshire.

I am pleased to join with the Eastern Diocese and Polish National Catholic Church in recognizing this great milestone for Holy Trinity Cathedral and its parishioners.

This is a great achievement for both the church and community of Manchester, and speaks highly to the outstanding services and spiritual guidance the parish has offered to residents of the Queen City and surrounding communities. For the past 100 years, Holy Trinity Cathedral has been a landmark in the City of Manchester, and the recent restoration of the church, which included the awarding of a Restoration of a City Landmark Award from the Manchester Historic Association demonstrates the deep impact this church has had on the community and the significance of its presence in downtown Manchester.

Under the leadership of Bishop Paul Sobiechowski the church and its parish community continue to flourish today by spreading the work and word of our savior Jesus Christ, and focusing their efforts on the Polish American community in the city and Southern New Hampshire. I am proud to join with my fellow Granite Staters in recognizing the 100th anniversary of Holy Trinity Cathedral, and wish them all the best in their future years.

# SALUTE TO THE LIVINGSTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department, in Livingston, Texas.

On August 23, 1915, the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department was officially established following a decision by the city to give Fire Chief Keenan Peebles full authority over the firefighting equipment, which at the time consisted of three hand pulled hose reels, a few fire hydrants, and three hose reel houses.

During the last 100 years, 275 citizen firefighters have volunteered their time and energy to respond to 24,000 calls under the direction of 17 fire chiefs. Currently, the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department has 39 fire fighters operating out of three stations.

Today, thanks to the support of the local community, the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department is as fully equipped and prepared as any department in Texas.

In celebration of this important milestone, we thank all those who have served as volunteers at the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department for their commitment, dedication and bravery.

**DHS HEADQUARTERS REFORM  
AND IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2015**

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I rise in support of H.R. 3572, the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Reform and Improvement Act of 2015."

This bill will establish DHS-wide strategic priorities for international engagement, mechanisms for monitoring resource deployment abroad, and strategic priorities and cost data for DHS programs and activities abroad.

H.R. 3572 provides support for DHS's "Unity of Effort" campaign and addresses redundancy among departmental programs.

The bill clarifies and streamlines the offices that constitute DHS Headquarters and better outlines their respective responsibilities.

Specifically, H.R. 3572 achieves these goals by:

1. Establishing an undersecretary for management and makes him or her the chief acquisition officer in the Homeland Security Department; and

2. Establishing two new offices within the department and updates the department's acquisition procedures.

Finally, the bill empowers the Inspector General to review the Department's suspension and debarment program and assess whether disparities exist in the criteria applied.

The bill addresses the need for DHS to develop strategic priorities for international engagement, establish mechanisms for monitoring resource deployment abroad, and developing strategic priorities, and collecting cost data for its programs and activities abroad.

I am pleased that H.R. 3572 incorporates several amendments that I offered during the full committee markup which improve the bill.

Jackson Lee Amendment Number 1 requires the Assistant Secretary for International Affairs to advise the Secretary of Homeland Security on strategic priorities for overseas deployment, establish a mechanism for monitoring alignment between assets, including personnel, with said priorities, and develop a standardized framework to collect and maintain cost data for overseas personnel.

Jackson Lee Amendment Number 2 made technical changes to H.R. 3572 regarding the conversion of contractor positions to Federal employee positions and requiring congressional authorization for adding any new office within the Office of Policy.

Since its creation in 2002, in the aftermath of the terrorist attack of 9/11, the Department

of Homeland Security has been, and must continue to be, ever vigilant in its activities to protect the homeland and the lives and property of Americans.

DHS faces a number of challenges, including the need for more resources, better training, better use of technology, and a constantly changing environment of homeland security threats.

H.R. 3572 is a positive step forward in this effort and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the "Department of Homeland Security Headquarters Reform and Improvement Act of 2015."

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT  
BISHOP, ESQ., RECIPIENT OF THE  
LACKAWANNA PRO BONO'S ROBERT  
W. MUNLEY AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Bishop, Esq., who will be awarded the 2015 Lackawanna Pro Bono's Attorney Robert W. Munley Award. Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income individuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

Robert has been principal of Hourigan, Kluger & Quinn, PC, since 1985. His practice specializes in estate planning and administration, as well as elder law matters, real estate transactions, business transactions, and corporate matters for clients in Luzerne, Lackawanna and surrounding counties. He is a graduate of Penn State University and Temple University School of Law.

In addition to volunteering his expertise to the Lackawanna Pro Bono, Robert is very active in the Northeastern Pennsylvania community. He is president of the Amos Lodge of B'nai B'rith, vice president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, secretary of the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania, past president of Glen Oak Country Club, past president and board member of Temple Israel of Scranton, past president of the ARC of Northeastern Pennsylvania, past president and board member of Jewish Family Services of Northeastern Pennsylvania, past president and life member of Scranton Counseling Center, past president and advisory board member of the Salvation Army Citadel in Scranton, past president and board member of the Estate Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and a board member of the Schwartz/Mack Foundation. Robert serves on the boards of the ARC Foundation and the Amos Towers Housing Foundation and the advisory boards of the Scranton Area Foundation, the Kania School of Management at the University of Scranton, and M&T Bank. He is an emeritus member of the Penn State Worthington advisory board, and serves on the board of the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

It is an honor to recognize Robert Bishop for the great service he has done for his commu-

nity, and I extend my congratulations on being awarded the Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. I commend Robert for all the effort he has put into making northeastern Pennsylvania a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT  
MAJOR ALBERT L. CAMPBELL,  
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Albert L. Campbell, U.S. Army, Retired of Round Rock, Texas, as a recipient of the Texas 31st District Congressional Veteran Commendation. CSM Campbell answered the call to defend our great nation for over 30 years in the United States Army. Today he lives in Round Rock, Texas where he continues his service to his fellow countrymen as a vibrant part of this growing central Texas community.

Born in Greenwood, SC CSM Campbell left the 11th grade and entered the Army in 1950. After rigorous training at Ft. Benning, GA, he was assigned to K Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team and stationed in Japan. CSM Campbell earned the Combat Infantrymen's Badge and Bronze Star for heroism fighting in Korea.

Following his assignment in Japan and Korea, CSM Albert L. Campbell served as the Platoon Sergeant for the 2nd Platoon, Company C, 508th of the 82nd Airborne, where he was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry. CSM Campbell would continue his leadership ascension as an instructor at West Point preparatory school at Ft. Belvoir, VA, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Howard University in Washington, DC. CSM Campbell rounded out his military service in Ft. Hood, Texas where he retired in 1980.

CSM Campbell's service and sense of duty did not end with his military service. CSM Campbell traded his guns for crosses as a Deacon at the One Way Baptist Church, in Round Rock, Texas.

Family and Service to God and Country remain at the center of his life. CSM Campbell continues his longstanding commitment to helping those in need whether physically as a caregiver or emotionally at Round Rock Independent School District's Opportunity Center, where he helps troubled children participate in the mainstream educational process.

I am stirred with the strongest sense of pride and honor as an American that I should have the opportunity to highlight the life of a true servant of the people. All should marvel and stand proud of an American who so strongly answered the call to serve.

CSM Campbell's patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of both our beloved military servicemen and Central Texas. Let today be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes, one who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy, prosperous, and healthy life in the years ahead.

SUPPORTING THE PEOPLE OF  
UKRAINE TO FREELY ELECT  
THEIR GOVERNMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 20, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 348 in support of the people of Ukraine in their exercise of their self-determination to free, fair and uninterrupted elections.

As the country with the oldest and most powerful democracy in the world, the United States has supported democracy, the rule of law and human rights all over the globe from Nigeria to Pakistan to China, to name a few.

The outcome of the October 25 elections in Ukraine is at the backdrop of the forcible and illegal occupation of Crimea, ordered by President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

The rights of the people of Ukraine to free, fair and transparent elections is especially critical, with Crimea currently under siege of Russian-led separatists who continue their attacks on Ukraine's forces set in place to protect the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Here in Congress, we have worked tirelessly to support free and fair elections in Ukraine through our support of its May 2014 elections, ensuring that international standards were upheld just as we have assisted in many elections in countries in transition or fighting insecurity from Nigeria to Pakistan.

In Nigeria and Pakistan, the elections occurred at the background of terrorism from Boko Haram, Al Qaida and other terrorist networks, who acted so viciously and caused thousands of Nigerians and Pakistanis to lose their lives and livelihoods.

Similarly, the citizens of Ukraine are at risk of being disenfranchised because of separatist controlled areas.

To this end the United States has worked to broker peace in Ukraine so that the people of Ukraine can exercise their right to self-determination though our support of the cease-fire agreement brokered between Ukraine, Russia and the Russian-led separatists which was not fully implemented and the subsequent Minsk Implementation Agreement.

But I stand with the people of the Ukraine, remain strong, we stand with you in exercising your Constitutional and human right to choose who will represent you.

The upcoming October 25, 2015 elections are critical for sustainable legislative and constitutional reform in Ukraine which will help promote democracy, the rule of law, upholding of human rights, the creation of security, all of which will catalyze the economic, social, cultural and political enfranchisement of the people of Ukraine, securing a bright future for the capable and exciting youth of Ukraine.

Indeed, here in Congress, we have taken numerous actions to uphold the sanctity of the right to economic, political and social enfranchisement of the people of Ukraine by passing the following legislation:

The Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, authorizing the United States President to provide Ukraine's government with support necessary to set up infrastructure for reforms that will facilitate restoring Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity including lethal defense

services and articles, such as anti-tank, anti-armor and counter-artillery radar (worth \$100 million in FY 2015 and \$125 million in each of fiscal years 2016 and 2017 for such weapons); and

Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which authorized loan guarantees for the Government of Ukraine.

Due to its geographical location, the Central European nation of Ukraine historically has been pushed and pulled between its neighbors with Europe to its west and Russia to its east.

This push pull from interested parties has caused conflict over the direction Ukraine would take after its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991.

For example, in November of 2013, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich suspended negotiations with the European Union over an agreement to integrate Ukraine into various European economic and political associations and instead accepted \$15 billion and other inducements to enter into closer ties with Moscow.

The decisions taken by President Yanukovich triggered demonstrations by thousands of Ukrainian citizens in the capital city of Kiev and throughout the country which led to numerous arrests, detentions and violent clashes, which led to the deaths of close to 100 protesters in February 2014.

In a cowardly act, President Yanukovich fled to the predominantly ethnic Russian region of Crimea in southeastern Ukraine, and then to Russia because of the chaos caused by his suspension of negotiations with the EU and the subsequent unrest that ensued, which also caused his unpopularity within his own party.

After President Yanukovich deserted his own people, an opportunistic Russian military force took up positions throughout Crimea, where, under a series of treaties that followed the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Russia had continued to maintain a series of military bases, notably at Sevastopol, where the Russian Black Sea naval fleet is based.

Indeed, Crimea itself was technically transferred from the Soviet republic of Russia to the Soviet republic of Ukraine in 1954.

Subsequently, in March 2014, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed legislation formally incorporating Crimea into Russia.

The United States and the European Union have opined that Russia's action is illegal and we have imposed a series of economic sanctions on Russia.

Russia continues to provide military equipment, training and other assistance to separatists and paramilitary forces in eastern Ukraine, resulting in an ongoing conflict with an estimated 6,000 deaths, hundreds of thousands of refugees and widespread destruction.

The Russian-led separatists in eastern Ukraine continue to refuse to implement Ukrainian law and stand in the way of the Ukrainian authorities to conduct elections in areas controlled by the separatists and hence are a stumbling block to free and fair elections in those areas.

Yet under all this stress, Ukraine continues to strive for its self-determination.

I commend all anti-corruption efforts in Ukraine.

The state Anti-Corruption Strategy Program Implementation for 2014–2017, which delineates anti-corruption reforms, persons, deadlines and infrastructure;

The creation of a National Agency for Prevention of Corruption;

The Ukrainian Law on Prevention of corruption, a new system which outlines financial control with electronic asset declaration of public servants;

The specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office;

Corruption Offender Registry; and

Many more efforts to combat corruption and enhance the rule of law and financial integrity in Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this resolution protecting the rights of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future.

Mr. Speaker, I also urge the Administration to expedite assistance to Ukraine to facilitate the political, economic and social reforms necessary for free and fair elections that meet international standards.

The Russian government, Russian-led separatists, its agents and supporters should not interfere in Ukraine's elections, through intimidation, violence or coercion.

The current relentless political, economic and military aggression on the people of Ukraine geared at subverting the independence, self-determination and the territorial integrity of Ukraine must stop.

I urge the people of Ukraine to help facilitate free and fair elections in Ukraine.

TRIBUTE TO URBANDALE'S  
WEBSTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Webster Elementary School in Urbandale, Iowa, for being selected as a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education.

In order to receive this prestigious designation, schools must demonstrate a commitment to enriching the academic experience of each and every student by closing the achievement gaps among student subgroups. Overall, 335 schools have received this designation. Urbandale's Webster Elementary School has shown that hard work, dedication, and a commitment to excellence can lead an entire school to academic success. The leaders within this school have found a formula for success by working together to improve student-teacher relationships, meeting each student and their learning styles on an individual level.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts shown by Urbandale's Webster Elementary School demonstrates Iowa's commitment to academic excellence. This award is an embodiment of the hard work and dedication every member of their faculty has displayed to improve the lives of their students. It is truly an honor to represent the students and faculty of the Webster Elementary School in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them for their achievements, and wish each and every one of them nothing but continued success.

HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR  
RICHARD "ROCKY" HERNANDEZ,  
SR., U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Major Richard "Rocky" Hernandez, Sr., U.S. Army, Retired. As a man who has lived his life in the service of his country and fellow man, it brings me great pride as a Texan to highlight the life of this public servant who has inspired many to pay the good will forward. SGM Hernandez selflessly served with distinction throughout his life in the military, the School District of Killeen, and the volunteer service that brought much needed help to retired veterans.

SGM Hernandez was born in Corpus Christi, Texas in March 1946. Heeding the call to service, SGM Hernandez departed high school early and enlisted in the U.S. Army in May, 1963. During his U.S. Army career he served over 14 years in Germany, deployed for one tour in Korea, and served two tours in Vietnam. While in Vietnam SGM Hernandez was assigned to the 196th Infantry Brigade, 23rd Infantry Division. SGM Hernandez was wounded in action on March 23, 1969 by enemy mortar fire and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

After achieving the rank of Sergeant Major, Rocky medically retired in 1989 having been disabled through peacetime and wartime injuries sustained in the service of his country. Nevertheless, SGM Hernandez would not be kept down for long. Following his military retirement SGM Hernandez served another 20 years for the Killeen Independent School District.

Yet still the call to serve and desire to help others burned inside. After joining a local Veterans Organization and hearing the voices of veterans seeking help, SGM Hernandez felt inspired to help his fellow veterans and their families navigate the complex VA system. In 1994 SGM Hernandez became a volunteer Veterans Service Officer. Since that time, SGM Hernandez has helped hundreds of veterans gain their well-deserved benefits. Today SGM Hernandez serves as Citizen on Patrol, where he continues his service with his eyes and ears to fight crime and evil wherever it resides.

After serving two full careers, SGM Hernandez exemplifies what it means to be an American and a Texan. May we follow the examples of great men such as SGM Hernandez and live our lives in the service of our fellow men and country. I join SGM Hernandez's family and friends in wishing him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

### KNOW THE CBRN TERRORISM THREATS TO TRANSPORTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3350, the

"Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act," which requires the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis to conduct a terrorism threat assessment regarding the ground transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological (CBRN) materials.

As a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations, I appreciate the significance of this bill.

On September 11, 2001, 2,977 people were killed after terrorists hijacked four commercial aircraft and used three of them as guided missiles to destroy much of the complex that made up the New York City Twin Towers as well as a wing of the Pentagon.

The fourth plane was crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania as passengers heroically attempted to retake the plane from the control of hijackers.

Since September 11, 2001, security experts have warned of vulnerabilities that exist should terrorists plan to attack a chemical facility located within the United States or worse yet, gain unlawful access to a facility, pipelines, or transit routes and steal chemicals for a mass attack against civilians.

Transportation of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) materials across our borders and within the United States may become targets for terrorists who seek to do us harm.

The 18th Congressional District of Texas, which I serve, is home to some of the world's largest petrochemical producers, which employ thousands of Houston area residents.

Chemicals are a vital and common presence in the lives of our nation's citizens, but we often forget how dangerous they can be under the wrong conditions.

On April 17, 2013, the small town of West, Texas felt the power and destructive force of ammonium nitrate when an accidental fire ignited what is believed to have been between 140 to 160 tons of the chemical.

This was no terrorist attack, but a very tragic accident.

The accident in the town of West, Texas reminded all of us who represent districts that count chemical plants or their owners and operators as constituents—how important it is to protect the transport of these products from theft or misuse by terrorists.

Ports, railways, pipelines, and trucks are critical to the domestic transport of chemical products.

U.S. seaports, like the Port of Houston, are vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

Ports serve as America's gateway to the global economy since the nation's economic prosperity rests on the ability of containerized and bulk cargo arriving unimpeded at U.S. ports to support the rapid delivery system that underpins the manufacturing and retail sectors.

A central component of national security is the ability of our international ports to move goods into and out of the country.

According to the Department of Commerce in 2012, Texas exports totaled \$265 billion.

The Port of Houston is a 25-mile-long complex of diversified public and private facilities located just a few hours' sailing time from the Gulf of Mexico.

In 2012, ship channel-related businesses contributed 1,026,820 jobs and generated

more than \$178.5 billion in statewide economic activity.

In 2014, the Port of Houston was ranked among U.S. ports:

1. 1st in foreign tonnage;
2. 1st among Texas ports with 46% of market share by tonnage and 95% market share in containers by total TEUS in 2014;
3. 1st among Gulf Coast container ports, handling 67% of U.S. Gulf Coast container traffic in 2014; and
4. 2nd in U.S. port in terms of total foreign cargo value (based on U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census)

The Government Accountability Office (GAO), reports that the Port of Houston and its waterways and vessels, are part of an economic engine handling more than \$700 billion in cargo annually.

The Port of Houston houses approximately 100 steamship lines offering services that link Houston with 1,053 ports in 203 countries.

The Port of Houston is home to a \$15 billion petrochemical complex, the largest in the nation and second largest in the world.

With the nation's largest petrochemical complex supplying over 40 percent of the nation's base petrochemical manufacturing capacity, what happens at the Port of Houston affects the entire nation.

In 2004, nearly 155 million tons of chemicals were transported by rail in North America, which constitutes 1.75 million rail cars of hazardous materials.

The volume of hazardous materials moving by rail more than doubled since 1980 indicates that rail has become an integral part of the tremendous increase in the transport of hazardous materials.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation approximately 2,200 trains per week travel within the Houston regional rail network, which is comprised of more than 800 miles of mainline tracks and 21 miles of railroad bridges.

I support this bill because we must protect the American people against potential terrorism through the unconventional use of biological, chemical or radiological materials that have a beneficial commercial or industrial purpose.

Without the proper precautions and security measures major U.S. cities such as Houston, Texas may be vulnerable to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear attacks by terrorist.

H.R. 3350 addresses many problems by requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a terrorism threat assessment of the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological materials through the United States land borders and within the United States.

In order to enforce the required threat assessment the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis shall consult with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border protection, and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, as deemed appropriate to ensure that such terrorism threat assessment is informed by current information about homeland security threats.

Congress must take forward action as threats of chemical and biological terrorism rise and terrorist groups actively seeking hazardous chemicals in order to inflict harm against American citizens.

I urge my colleagues to support me on H.R. 3350 in order to assess threats to our transportation infrastructure.

#### TRIBUTE TO WELCH'S ORCHARD

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Joe and Joan Welch of Council Bluffs, Iowa, for celebrating their Orchard's 25th anniversary this season.

As one of a handful of local orchards, Welch's has provided high quality products along with a dedication to customer service. Thousands of local residents flock to the orchard each year to enjoy the wide variety of products that the orchard offers, from honey crisp apples to 100-pound pumpkins. For 25 years Welch's Orchard has been a fun and entertaining attraction for children and adults alike.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Joe and Joan Welch and their staff for their 25 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Welch's Orchard and wishing them nothing but continued success moving forward.

#### HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL JERRI JONES, U.S. MARINE CORPS, RETIRED

##### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Jerri Jones, U.S. Marine Corps, Retired for her extraordinary dedication to duty and service to our Nation. LtCol Jones has served as a guardian of those in need while serving in the military and continues that service today in the great state of Texas.

LtCol Jones entered the United States Marine Corps on October 28, 1975. Her years of service have taken her throughout the Pacific theater, serving tours in California, Hawaii, and Japan. LtCol Jones' dedication to leading by example earned her the nickname "Combat Jones" while living in a tent in South Korea during the winter of 1979.

LtCol Jones was called to duty again and served a critical role during the first Gulf War that plunged many of her fellow Marines into the heat of battle. The first Gulf War saw many families' breadwinners deployed to active duty, leaving many spouses and families with financial difficulties. LtCol Jones took this crisis head on and eased the burden on these Marine families during these challenging times. LtCol retired on December 1, 1995.

Today LtCol Jones continues her service with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, where she coordinates the monthly business networking roundtable. LtCol Jones is well known for motivating and inspiring the Chamber's members with her warm sense of humor and energizing personality.

Nowhere is LtCol Jones' compassion for the defenseless more profound than in her work with the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center. During her tenure as Executive Director of the Advocacy Center LtCol Jones doubled the number of children and teens helped through the Center. Her leadership, tenacity, and compassion to serve those in need are felt by all who associate with her.

In celebrating LtCol Jones' life I am reminded of the parable of the talents found in the New Testament in which each servant was rewarded according to the work they had done. With deep admiration and respect, I pay tribute to her for all she has done with her talents in the service of her fellow man. Well done thou good and faithful servant.

#### H.R. 702—TO ADAPT TO CHANGING CRUDE OIL MARKETS

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 702—to adapt to changing crude oil markets—on Friday, October 9th. This legislation will broadly remove almost all restrictions on crude oil exports from the United States. It was ill-advised and represented a huge missed opportunity to address our energy needs comprehensively.

Right now, we export limited amounts of crude oil from the United States, and this policy is working. There may come a time when it would be strategic to make an adjustment on our export strategy, but right now we are awash in oil in this country, gasoline prices are low and the President already has the latitude to help some of our strategic partners with limited U.S. exports if he deems it in the national interest.

Those in favor of exporting more crude tout benefits of job creation and lower gas prices. This is dramatically overstated. If some jobs are created in the oil fields, other jobs will be lost in refineries. The Energy Information Administration estimates that exporting more crude now would either have no impact on the cost of gasoline or only slightly reduce the price of gasoline. The real benefactors of this policy change would be large oil companies.

If Congress is going to provide yet another benefit to oil companies who don't need it, at the very least it should be part of a larger energy package that would actually help the American people and further our domestic energy security needs. We need to extend tax credits that support the wind and solar electricity sectors, industries that actually create far more jobs than would come from exporting more crude oil. We need to end some of the more egregious subsidies for the oil and gas sector, subsidies that cost the taxpayers billions of dollars every year. We need to reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund which supports important conservation projects in every community in America. Instead of passing an isolated giveaway to big oil, we should take any energy legislation that comes to the floor as opportunity to look at energy comprehensively, with the ultimate goal of transitioning away from fossil fuels while keeping energy affordable and reliable for the American people.

If Republicans were actually serious about pursuing a bipartisan agenda, they would not have included provisions that broadly prevent the federal government from imposing any restriction on the export of crude oil under other authorities. They would not have included non-germane, vote-buying provisions such as the last-minute addition of funding for the Maritime Security Program (MSP). That is why I voted for an amendment offered by my colleague, Representative AMASH, to keep MSP at its currently authorized level, instead of the \$500 million increase included in this legislation. There's no doubt that the sustainability of the MSP program is in question without increased funding. That is sadly the case for many federally-supported programs, all directly impacted by a Congress unwilling to provide additional revenue or compromise on an effort to finally eliminate the reckless sequestration caps that I've voted against since day one. Even if MSP were to receive the relief they need ahead of many others hurt by budgetary brinksmanship, the funding level ought to be carefully scrutinized. The highly debated, amended, and conferenced fiscal year 2016 Defense Authorization did exactly that, and concluded that the annual subsidy for MSP participants should increase from \$3.1 million per vessel to \$3.5 million per vessel—a 12.9 percent increase, not the 40 percent increase included in H.R. 702.

Overall, H.R. 702 was bad policy and represented a huge missed opportunity to address our real energy needs.

#### CELEBRATING LISA KORBATOV'S RECOGNITION BY THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

##### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lisa Korbato on her receipt of the Boy Scouts of America's Distinguished Citizen Award. This award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated leadership above and beyond the call of duty, and dedicated themselves to the betterment of their communities. Lisa's long and distinguished history of leadership throughout the greater Los Angeles area makes her an ideal choice for this great honor.

I have known Lisa for a long time, and I have seen the depth of her commitment to making Los Angeles a better place to live. I have seen the pride she takes in serving our community, and I have seen her work with her fellow Angelenos to improve our city.

Lisa and I share a passion for supporting local youth. Since 2009, she has served as a Governing Member of the Beverly Hills School Board, including a term as its President. In addition, she has served on the Board of Directors for USC Hillel at the University of Southern California, and the Jewish Education Trade School in Granada Hills.

She has been active in numerous youth-oriented community organizations, including Aviva Family and Children's Services, Vista Del Mar, and the Boy Scouts of America, Western Los Angeles County Council. And in 2013, she was honored with the "Legacy of Hope" award by Chai Lifeline, a charity that

helps support and inspire children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses.

Lisa is not afraid to take bold and creative measures to help our children. She initiated and co-wrote a Los Angeles city resolution to institute a grading system for schools, similar to the way the city grades restaurants. In Beverly Hills, she has petitioned the school board for safer and more sanitary campuses, and even hired a photographer to help her document the campus conditions she was seeking to correct.

I also admire Lisa's support for Israel and the Jewish people: she has been a Board Member of the Israel Grants Fund, a Trustee of the Jewish Community Foundation, and a Senate Club member of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee.

Finally, Lisa is a distinguished L.A. businesswoman, and a superb example of the talent that women bring to leadership positions in our local businesses. She is a co-owner of the commercial property management company Amalgamated Real Estate Services, where she manages twenty Downtown and Westside commercial buildings.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lisa Korbato on her well-deserved honor from the Boy Scouts of America, and in urging her to keep up her great work to improve Los Angeles.

#### TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT NOAH DE KRUIF

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Noah De Kruij of Boy Scout Troop 98 in Urbandale, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Noah is the son of Jim and Elizabeth De Kruij of Johnston, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about four percent of Boy Scouts earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests organized by requirements and merit badges, and complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Noah has earned 21 merit badges as a Boy Scout. For his Eagle Scout Service Project he and his twin brother Nicholas, who is also an Eagle Scout, revitalized a local school, the Joshua Christian Academy. The project included a complete renovation of the landscaping, painting fresh lines in the parking lots, adding concrete barriers in areas of need, and making a sign to help identify the school. The staff at Joshua Christian Academy really appreciated the effort to make the school safer and more visually appealing.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Noah and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout and in

wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT  
MAJOR ROOSEVELT HUGGINS,  
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major Roosevelt Huggins, U.S. Army, Retired. It brings me great pride to highlight the life of this great American.

CSM Huggins' service to his beloved nation began July 19, 1961, where he entered the Army at Ft. Hood, Texas. Upon his promotion to Sergeant in Okinawa, Japan, CSM Huggins was shipped out to Vietnam in 1965, where he would serve two tours. On November 6, 1966 while participating in Operation "Eagle Shot Cow" his battery was overrun by a Vietnamese Battalion. For his valiant efforts in Vietnam, CSM Huggins was awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Award with Valor.

After Vietnam CSM Huggins was called to lead and teach in a variety of roles. From 1975–1981 CSM Huggins was assigned to Ft. Carlson, Colorado where he attended a boxing camp. There, he learned the skills that would bring Army Boxing back to Ft. Hood Texas.

CSM Huggins retired August 1, 1991 after more than 30 years of service in the U.S. Army that spanned five countries, war-time conflicts, and multiple states that called him to learn, lead, and teach his fellow soldiers the discipline and skills necessary to defend a nation. CSM Huggins continued his proud tradition of service to his fellow man after his retirement. In 1997 CSM Huggins organized the first Back to School—Stay in School program designed to promote both youth and adult education. CSM Huggins has served as a role model for youth and adults alike.

I am proud to have such a man residing right here in Texas so dedicated to the uplifting and betterment of the community in which he lives, works, and serves. May we all remember and honor this fine example of humility and service. I join CSM Huggins' wife Charmaine, their two sons, three granddaughters, family, and friends in wishing him nothing but the best in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GREATER  
WILKES-BARRE ASSOCIATION OF  
REALTORS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors as they celebrate 100 years of service to the community. For the past century, the Association's members have helped families in their pursuit of the American dream of home ownership.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors traces its origins with the establish-

ment of Wilkes-Barre Real Estate Exchange in 1915. Today, with over 400 members, the organization is an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors and operates under the capable leadership of Charles Adonizio III. On January 1, 2016 the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors plans to merge with its counterpart, the Greater Hazelton Association of Realtors. The two groups will form the Luzerne County Association of Realtors. With this consolidation, both organizations hope to provide more professional services to their members and to better serve all of Luzerne County.

It is an honor to recognize the Greater Wilkes-Barre Association of Realtors, and I applaud the organization and its members for a century of top-notch professional service to the community. I wish the Association all the best as its members continue their work for northeastern Pennsylvania through the new Luzerne County Association of Realtors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 550 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3493—the Securing the Cities Act of 2015, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 551 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3350—the Know the CBRN Terrorism Threats to Transportation Act, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 552 on suspending the rules and adopting H. Res. 348—a resolution supporting the right of the people of Ukraine to freely elect their government and determine their future, I am not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONALD AND JUANITA CLOUSE

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Donald and Juanita Clouse of Griswold, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 24, 1950 in Tingley, Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, Donald and Juanita's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Diane, Penny, Cindy and Steve, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.



TRIBUTE TO JERRY C. PRUIETT

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of veteran, community leader, and my longtime friend Jerry C. Pruiett, who will retire after a lifetime of work. Jerry's extraordinary commitment to community service reflects the best values of Central Texas; his strong work ethic and his friendly and inspiring attitude lifts all around him.

Jerry's military career was but a humble beginning of a life filled with love and service. A gifted athlete, Jerry turned down an opportunity to try out for the New York Mets to join the Navy. He served his country aboard two Navy aircraft carriers: the USS Coral Sea, known as the "Ageless Warrior", and the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

After the Navy, Jerry continued life in the civil service for two more years at Kelly Air Force Base. Shortly thereafter, Jerry accepted a job with ButterKrust Bakery and shouldered the responsibility of General Sales Manager for 28 years. In 2003, Jerry went to work for K&N Management and will retire on October 24, 2015.

Over the years, Jerry found numerous ways to serve his fellow man in the Round Rock, Texas Community. In 2010 Jerry coordinated a successful golf tournament to support Nevus Outreach to help children born with skin diseases. Having seen his father diagnosed with Alzheimer's, Jerry wanted to do all he could to help those in need and would later organize a fundraiser in support of research into that debilitating disease.

When I reflect on Jerry's life of service and our friendship over the years I am reminded of the teachings of Christ when he taught, "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." To Jerry, these are not mere words but a summons by which to live a fulfilling life. I am proud to call Jerry my friend. Round Rock is lucky to have him as a part of our growing community.

Retirement is to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. I salute Jerry Pruiett for his hard work and dedication to his community. I wish him only the best in the years ahead.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER, RECIPIENT OF THE LACKAWANNA PRO BONO'S ROBERT W. MUNLEY AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Women's Resource Center which will be awarded the 2015 Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income in-

dividuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

The Women's Resource Center is a non-profit organization located in Scranton, Pennsylvania. The Women's Resource Center is the sole provider of domestic violence and sexual assault services in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. Since 1976, Women's Resource Center has provided free and confidential services that support justice, autonomy, restoration, and safety for adult and child survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. Women's Resource Center utilizes a holistic approach, providing crisis and advocacy services, safe housing, transitional housing and civil/legal representation for survivors. Programs are designed to be flexible to meet the needs of survivors from diverse ethnic, cultural, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds. In 2014, Women's Resource Center provided services to 1,504 survivors of domestic violence and 297 survivors of sexual assault, providing safe housing for 145 families. Civil legal representation was provided for 110 program participants with 206 case filings.

Today, under the leadership of Executive Director Peg Ruddy, the Women's Resource Center remains a dynamic force in northeastern Pennsylvania, helping over 50,000 women and children in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties rebuild their lives free of violence and fear since beginning operations. Of that number, 42,138 were adult and child victims of domestic violence and 9,949 victims of sexual abuse. Those reaching out for help come from all walks of life, socioeconomic backgrounds, education, ethnicities, and sexual orientation. Services are free and extended to everyone, including family members, adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, and men in same sex relationships.

It is an honor to recognize the Women's Resource Center for the great service it has done for the community, and I extend my congratulations on being awarded the Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. I commend the Women's Resource Center for the great efforts it puts forth to make northeastern Pennsylvania a better community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on October 9, 2015. I departed from Washington due to the flood crisis in the district to accompany Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and Red Cross National President Gail McGovern.

1) H.R. 702—To Adapt to Changing Crude Oil Market Conditions—YES; Amash Amendment 1—NO; Messer Amendment 5—YES; Messer Amendment 6—YES; Motion to recommit H.R. 702—NO.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT  
NICHOLAS DE KRUIF

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nicholas De Kruij of Boy Scout Troop 98 in Urbandale, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Nicholas is the son of Jim and Elizabeth De Kruij of Johnston, Iowa.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about four percent of Boy Scouts earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout must pass specific tests organized by requirements and merit badges, and complete an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Nicholas has earned 21 merit badges as a Boy Scout. For his Eagle Scout Service Project he and his twin brother Noah, who is also an Eagle Scout, revitalized a local school, the Joshua Christian Academy. The project included a complete renovation of the landscaping, painting fresh lines in the parking lots, adding concrete barriers in areas of need, and making a sign to help identify the school. The staff at Joshua Christian Academy really appreciated the effort to make the school safer and more visually appealing.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Nicholas and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout and in wishing him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL  
MEDICAL ASSISTANTS WEEK

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor all medical assistant professionals as we observe National Medical Assistants Week.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, medical assisting is one of our country's fastest growing occupations with an estimated 584,000 men and women serving nationwide. These medical professionals are central figures in the health care industry as they promote, support, and help maintain cooperative and successful relationships between patients and physicians.

In the U.S., medical assistants have traditionally held jobs almost exclusively in ambulatory care centers, urgent care facilities, and clinics, but this is now changing. Today, medical assistants work in private and public hospitals, inpatient and outpatient facilities, assisted living facilities, or in general practice and specialists' offices. Operating with a wide



array of skills at their disposal, medical assistants are responsible for administrative roles such as scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, recording billing and coding information for insurance purposes, as well as performing clinical duties like taking and recording vital signs, completing medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood, and administering medications as directed by a physician.

With their unique versatility, medical assistants are assets to the medical field that serves both doctors and patients with loyalty and dedication. It is a privilege to recognize these honorable men and women who are committed to health care and work diligently to heal fellow citizens and others in our country. I wish all who pursue this worthy vocation the best, and I urge all Americans to be aware of their sizeable contributions to our health care system.

#### REAUTHORIZING THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND AND ITS IMPACT ON OHIO'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the need for federal highway and transit programs across the nation and for Republican leadership to pass the Highway Trust Fund.

Federal highway and transit programs are vitally important to the third congressional district of Ohio, which I proudly represent.

The design, construction, and maintenance of transportation infrastructure in the third congressional district supports 15,184 full-time jobs, earning these families a total of \$602.1 million annually.

Between 2005 and 2014, the federal investment in my congressional district has provided \$1.4 billion to support 380 highway and bridge projects worth \$2.1 billion.

Republican Leadership's failure to enact a robust, long-term funding bill for our decaying infrastructure system, is hurting our economy and hardworking American families all across our nation.

Mr. Speaker, a long-term bill helps provide good-paying jobs, safe and modern infrastructure, and efficient transportation.

Let's reauthorize the Highway and Transit Trust Fund today, before the October 29th deadline.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE FRANCIS (FRANK) MINOSKY, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Command Sergeant Major George Francis (Frank) Minosky, U.S. Army, Retired. CSM Minosky answered the call to defend our great nation for over 25 years.

Today he lives in Belton, Texas where he continues to serve his fellow countrymen as a vibrant part of his growing central Texas community.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio CSM Minosky entered the Army in 1970. After a period of rigorous initial entry training, he was assigned to the legendary 82nd Airborne Division. Due to impeccable achievement and promotion to the non-commissioned officer ranks, he was selected for drill sergeant training in 1975. In this capacity, CSM Minosky provided superior leadership and shared his tactical expertise with thousands of recruits at Forts Ord and Sill.

Following his assignment as a drill sergeant, CSM Minosky served in Korea, Fort Bragg, and Hawaii. CSM Minosky's career culminated at Ft Hood, Texas where he retired in 1995 after 25 years of dedicated service. His last official assignment in the United States Army was Command Sergeant Major of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, a critical and prestigious assignment. Among a long list of accomplishments, CSM Minosky earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, and the Master Parachutist Badge.

Upon retiring, CSM Minosky's sense of duty did not end with his active military service. Frank Minosky's dedication to country and soldiers manifested in his efforts with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10377, American Military Retiree Association, Enlisted Retiree Association, Fort Hood Commanding Generals Retiree Council, and the Chief of Staff Army's Retirees Council. Frank Minosky is also an active member of the Association for the United States Army and the First Cavalry Division Association.

Frank Minosky firmly embraced central Texas as his new home in 1992; since then, he has become an indispensable local community leader. Belton, TX singled Frank out as its Citizen of the year on one occasion. He has served superbly as a Belton City Councilman and presently contributes on the Belton Planning and Zoning Board. The good people of Central Texas are blessed to have him among us.

I am stirred with the strongest sense of pride and honor as an American to highlight the life of a true servant of the people. CSM Minosky's patriotism and commitment to service reflect the very best values of our beloved military servicemen and Central Texas. Let today be a celebration of one of our nation's heroes who devoted his life to keeping us free and making America a beacon of hope in the world. Along with his friends, family, and loved ones, I wish him both a happy, prosperous, and healthy life in the years ahead.

HONOR THE WORKERS AT THE MAPLE RIDGE WIND FARM

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the workers at the Maple Ridge Wind Farm in my district. Many of their employees recently visited Washington, calling on Con-

gress to pass policy that drives more clean energy solutions. Not only does the Maple Ridge Wind Farm supply the electricity needs for 96,000 homes in upstate New York, but since it became a part of the community in 2006, it has also provided \$8 million a year in tax revenues to Lewis County. What has this meant for the community? Well, at Lowville Academy and Central School, they have been able to add 11 positions to the payroll, add 10 advanced placement classes and keep other important programs such as art and music, all thanks to the added tax revenue from the wind project. This has been a remarkable advantage for this school district and the surrounding community. I want to thank the 35 employees—all of whom are local to upstate New York—who keep the Maple Ridge Wind Farm operating. I urge my colleagues to support clean energy incentives, like the Production Tax Credit, which has not only helped the U.S. become the leader in wind energy, but at a local level, drives private investments that can have such a positive impact on our rural communities.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. ROBERT WRIGHT, RECIPIENT OF THE LACKAWANNA PRO BONO'S ROBERT W. MUNLEY AWARD

**HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert Wright, recipient of the 2015 Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization established in 1997 to increase the availability of free legal representation for low-income individuals and families throughout Lackawanna County.

Credited with transforming the training given to doctors in northeastern Pennsylvania, Dr. Wright is the former president and CEO of the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education. Originally established by Dr. Wright in 1977 as the Scranton Temple Residency Program, it was renamed in 2010 to honor Dr. Wright. Since its founding, The Wright Center's mission is to continuously improve education and patient care in a collaborative spirit in order to enhance health care outcomes, access, and affordability. The program includes all three Scranton hospitals and clinics in Scranton, Archbald, and Clarks Summit. Dr. Wright also played an integral role in establishing The Commonwealth Medical College in Scranton and generated significant community support for the endeavor.

Dr. Wright is a graduate of the Temple School of Medicine. He completed his residency training in Internal Medicine at Temple and fellowship training in Hematology and Oncology at the University of Washington in Seattle. He is a Professor of Medicine at Temple University and also holds a volunteer faculty appointment at The Commonwealth Medical College. Dr. Wright was the Founding Chair of The Commonwealth Medical College Board and currently chairs its Academic Affairs and Compliance Committees.

It is an honor to recognize Dr. Robert Wright for the pioneering work he has done for the medical community, and I extend my congratulations to him on being awarded the

Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. I commend Dr. Robert Wright for all the effort he has put forth to make northeastern Pennsylvania a better place to live.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE POULOS FAMILY

##### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dan, Kathy, and Pete Poulos, of the Pizza King Restaurant in Council Bluffs, Iowa. For 50 years, Pizza King has been a landmark in the business community. It was founded in 1965, and has been a family-owned operation since its inception.

Pizza King has hosted events of all kinds, from wedding rehearsal dinners, to children's parties, to anniversary celebrations. Pizza King has been the restaurant of choice for a quiet dinner for two, a business meeting, or a gathering of over 100. The Poulos Family works together to provide outstanding customer service each and every day. The Pizza King Restaurant is a Council Bluffs institution and has provided delicious food, paired with a warm and inviting atmosphere, for generations of diners.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dan, Kathy, Pete and the entire Poulos family for 50 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Pizza King and its owners for this outstanding achievement. I wish the Poulos family and staff nothing but the best moving forward.

#### TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JIM TORRES, U.S. AIR FORCE, RETIRED

##### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Jim Torres, U.S. Air Force, Retired for his 23 years of dedication, loyalty, and honorable service to our great nation and his continued outstanding community involvement. His has been a life lived in devoted service to others.

MSgt Torres served 3 tours in Vietnam, all as a volunteer. For his selfless service to our country, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for heroic combat action among other awards.

Upon retirement, MSgt Torres continues to serve his fellow veterans in Round Rock, Texas in countless ways. He serves in an involved role in El Amistad, an organization dedicated to helping high school seniors go to college or trade school. MSgt Torres has long been a volunteer at the VA hospital in Kerrville where he takes on an active role reaching out to patients. Known locally as a "one man veteran's help line" he engages in conversations with veterans to hear their story and help with any problem they might be having. MSgt

Torres' service doesn't simply stop at conversations with his fellow veterans; he also volunteers at the local Round Rock Veteran's thrift store where proceeds go to help Central Texas veterans. He is beloved by the community for these selfless actions.

MSgt Torres is a quiet hero who takes on community tasks for his fellow man to seek and ensure that local veterans receive the recognition they deserve. I commend him for his selfless service to the United States Air Force and especially to his community. He has been a shining example and direct reflection of the very best values of our nation by his acts of patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

#### SITE COMMISSIONS

##### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a letter that I and my colleagues sent to the FCC asking for an end to site commissions.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the FCC will finally take action to reform prison telephone rates also known as Inmate Calling Services. This action is long overdue. The inmate calling service industry is a monopoly with less than three dominant players. Basically, each correctional facility contracts with one of the big players to be an exclusive service provider. While there is a bidding process, the companies typically agree to pay a percentage of their profits back to the department in exchange for the contract. (An average of 48 percent according to Prison Legal News). Simply, the company that can offer the largest "kickbacks" wins the contract. This is purely "reverse competition". Operating without regulation or proper oversight this shadowy industry has taken advantage of millions of families and their loved ones.

I must mention two citizens critical in my education on this process. First is Charlie Sullivan of CURE a tireless prison reform advocate who approached me over 10 years ago about this injustice. The second is Ms. Martha Wright, a grandmother, who in 2003 filed a class action lawsuit against these unscrupulous businesses alleging they charged "exorbitant and unconscionable long-distance rates."

In 2005, I first introduced The Family Telephone Connection Protection Act, calling for more competition, rate caps and an end to these insane and insidious "kickbacks" also known as "site commissions"—which is just a polite name for "Bribery".

For too many years we have allowed predatory companies like Securus to gauge these faceless and voiceless families who are already emotionally and financially devastated. It is unreasonable, unjust and unacceptable to pay \$17 for a 15 minute call or \$300 dollars a month to talk to a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, more than two million Americans are currently incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons. Their chances for rehabilitation and a successful return to society are vastly improved if they can remain in communication with their families, children, and critical support services. Expensive phone call

rates deter such communication and result in recidivism and costly re-incarceration.

After a decade of no oversight, no regulation and no transparency the FCC has a chance tomorrow to finally right a wrong to a powerless segment of our society.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

*Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.*

Hon. TOM WHEELER,

*Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN WHEELER: More than two million Americans are currently incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons. Their chances for rehabilitation and a successful return to society are vastly improved if they can remain in communication with their families, children, and critical support services. Expensive phone call rates deter such communication and result in recidivism and costly re-incarceration.

For the past decade we, the undersigned Members of Congress, have been imploring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide a market-based solution to curb these high telephone rates (see the Family Telephone Connection Protection Act, first introduced in the 109th Congress). The Commission is poised on October 22, 2015, to approve a final order on comprehensive inmate calling services (ICS) and we firmly believe that such comprehensive reform is needed to rein in the predatory practices in the ICS marketplace. The lack of competition and the out of control site commissions paid to correctional facilities are partly the cause of these skyrocketing costs. Simply put, up to 60 percent of what prisoners' families pay to receive phone calls from their incarcerated loved ones has nothing to do with the cost of the phone services provided. These artificial rates account for hundreds of millions of dollars paid to state prison systems for exclusive contracts.

For several years, the Commission has correctly concluded that unconstrained site commission practices are the most significant contributing factor to high ICS rates. In its 2013 order, Reducing High Inmate Calling Rates, the Commission cited many examples demonstrating the correlation of site commission and high phone rates.

On September 15, 2015, the Commission outlined in a fact sheet that it "strongly discourages site commissions" but did not provide any assurance that it plans to eliminate or curb this predatory practice. It also outlined a rate cap of \$1.65 for intrastate, interstate, and international calls. Although establishing a rate cap is a step in the right direction, we believe it must be coupled with eliminating site commissions in order to yield the lowest possible phone rates. We, therefore, urge the Commission to use its statutory authority under Sections 201 and 276 to address site commissions when it undertakes comprehensive ICS reform.

We have all heard the stories and cries of our constituents who, at times, have had to pay up to \$17 for a 15 minute call just to stay in touch with their incarcerated loved ones. We know all too well that ongoing contact between the incarcerated and their families reduces the rate of recidivism in our society. Ending these predatory practices of price gouging at the expense of families is a human rights issue. As the Commission moves towards a vote on ICS, we urge you to exercise the fullest extent of your jurisdiction to protect and service more vulnerable consumers.

Sincerely,

BOBBY L. RUSH,

*Member of Congress.*

G. K. BUTTERFIELD,

*Member of Congress.*

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,

Member of Congress.  
CHARLES B. RANGEL,  
Member of Congress.  
MARCIA L. FUDGE,  
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DALE AND JANICE  
WARD

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dale and Janice Ward of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They married in 1965.

Dale and Janice's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Jill and Lisa, along with their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

THE PASSING OF WORLD WAR II  
VETERAN AND PEARL HARBOR  
SURVIVOR EDWARD F. BORUCKI

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to speak about the passing of one of western Massachusetts' heroes, World War II veteran and survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack, Edward F. Borucki.

Edward was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts to Polish immigrants and worked as a machinist apprentice until he decided to enlist in the Navy in 1940. After going through training in Newport, Rhode Island, he was shipped to the Pacific and assigned to the light cruiser, the USS *Helena*. He moved through the ranks to Yeoman Third Class aboard the vessel and worked in the forward engine room. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Edward was running to his station when the first torpedo hit the forward engine room and knocked him into a bulkhead. He was only thirty seconds from being in the section that was destroyed. He helped seal the section of the ship off and help in anyway he could. After the attack was over, Edward helped carry his wounded and dead shipmates up out of the section and to the hospital.

After the USS *Helena* was transferred back to California for repairs, Edward was transferred to the USS *Rockaway* and then preceded to attend various training schools. In 1944, Edward married his late wife, Viola Mul of Southampton. A year later, he left the Navy with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Edward was able to take advantage of the GI Bill to get a business degree at American International College in Springfield, MA and a Masters degree at Boston University. Starting in 1955, Edward taught at Chicopee High School and later Chicopee Comprehensive High School until he retired.

Edward never forgot about his experiences in the war and the need to show appreciation

to veterans. He was a fixture at a multitude of events honoring veterans around western Massachusetts. He worked for ten years as a veteran's agent in Southampton, helping veterans work through what services are available to them. In the early 2000s, Edward led an effort to get a bridge on Route 5 over the Manhan River dedicated to all those who lost their lives and the survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack. He commented during the campaign to express why the bridge should be named for the Pearl Harbor veterans, "War is hell. We who were in it never want to see another again." Lawmakers in Massachusetts gladly listened to his request and in 2005, the Pearl Harbor Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Borucki was a fine example of the men and women that put their lives on the line for our freedom against the threat of tyranny during the Second World War and who served their community selflessly afterward. I would like to extend my condolences to his family, including his seven sons, and let them know that the thoughts of a grateful nation are with them.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
MAJOR STEWART, U.S. AIR  
FORCE, RETIRED

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Major Stewart, U.S. Air Force, Retired. It is my great honor to highlight the life of this humble American.

Lt. Col. Stewart enlisted in the Army Air Corp in August of 1941 and served throughout the duration of World War II. Millions of Americans answered the call and sacrificed when our Allies were in trouble; Lt. Col. Stewart was no exception. As a bomber pilot, he completed 70 missions while serving in the Pacific Fleet; 39 of these in the legendary B-25 Mitchell Bomber. Lt. Col. Stewart later transitioned to the B-24; it was in this aircraft that Colonel Stewart would lead a decisive mission to attack a key enemy oil refinery.

The strategic oil-refinery at Balikpapan, Borneo produced over thirty percent of Japan's wartime fuel supply and was heavily defended by enemy fighters and anti-aircraft weapons. On October 14, 1944, Lt. Col. Stewart led a formation of dangerously overloaded B-24 bombers on a daylight bombing run in what was one of the longest flights ever undertaken in the Southwest Pacific. Dedication to mission enabled him to stay the course and place bombs on target despite the damage his plane experienced on approach from enemy fire. For his heroism and extraordinary achievement, Lt. Col. Stewart was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the highest honors the military bestows.

I know Lt. Col. Stewart wouldn't boast of his service during WWII, a trying time for our Nation, yet it is his type of heroic actions that led to the defeat of the Axis allies and the evil they spread. Lt. Col. Stewart's achievements didn't stop there. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon with four Bronze Stars for the New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Northern Solomon, and Mandated Islands Campaigns.

Upon return to reserve duty in November of 1945, Lt. Col. Stewart maintained airplanes at Tinker Air Force Base. Yearning to give greater service to his community, he attended school and became a math teacher. After retiring from both the U.S. Air Force Reserves and a teaching career in California, he made his way to Texas. Today Lt. Col. Stewart and his wife live in Cedar Park where he was recently presented a key to the City by Cedar Park Mayor and City Council at the WWII Veteran's Recognition Ceremony. We are honored to have such a humble hero in our midst.

These few meager words cannot fully express the gratitude I share for Lt. Col. Stewart and the brave service he has given. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in deep appreciation for his service to the Nation. May we all follow the example of bravery, heroism, and humility he displays everyday as part of the greatest generation that ever lived.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,669,947,434.69. We've added \$7,525,792,989,521.61 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG AND LINDA  
WOLTMANN

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Craig and Linda Woltmann of Walnut, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 12, 1965, at the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut.

Craig and Linda's lifelong commitment to each other, their daughter, Wendy, and their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING DR. ROBERT R.  
HOLMES

**HON. JASON SMITH**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert R. Holmes for his

outstanding achievements in the field of engineering. Dr. Holmes was honored in New York on October 13th with the 2015 Government Civil Engineer of the Year award. This award recognizes distinguished civil engineers employed in public service for significant engineering contributions.

Dr. Holmes earned a Bachelor of Science in 1987 and Master of Science in 1989 at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in civil engineering. Dr. Holmes continued his education earning a Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering from the University of Illinois and began his teaching career soon after. He has taught as an assistant adjunct professor at the University of Illinois since 2006 and adjunct professor at Missouri S&T since 2008.

For over 28 years, Dr. Holmes has worked as a hydrologist and leading member of the United States Geological Survey. He currently serves as a national flood hazard specialist and the senior adviser on flood science and response for the United States Geological Survey. His United States Geological Survey colleagues have given high praise for his contributions to water resources engineering and flood hazards management during his time there.

Dr. Robert R. Holmes is a model of excellence in his field and it is my pleasure to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEW MEXICAN ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED AS "BRIGHT SPOTS" BY THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR HISPANICS

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize three New Mexican organizations that have gone above and beyond in serving Hispanic students in my home state of New Mexico. Their outstanding work earned them recognition by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics as "Bright Spots." Bright Spots are described as organizations or programs that help to close the achievement gap.

A total of six organizations in New Mexico have been recognized by the White House and three of those organizations are located in New Mexico's third congressional district. The Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANLF) encourages Hispanic academic excellence through the support of educational programs. LANLF created programs to support early childhood learning, STEM elementary education, as well as college/workforce development. The second organization in our district is New Mexico Highlands University's Achieving in Research Math and Science (ARMAS). ARMAS has increased the number of Hispanic students earning a Bachelor's of Science degree in a STEM field at the university level. The third organization to receive recognition within our district is (Santa Fe YouthWorks! This is a program dedicated to targeting at-risk youth in order to ensure that they have the educational, leadership and life skills to succeed and get ahead.

These programs help raise awareness about Hispanic education and the need to address the achievement gap while serving as models of best practices for successfully engaging our diverse population. Together, these programs have helped countless Hispanics achieve academic and social success. These organizations have had a tremendous effect within their particular communities and on New Mexico as a state, by increasing the number of Hispanic students who attain educational degrees. I applaud these outstanding organizations for contributing to Hispanic academic success in New Mexico.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL ROBERT SHOEMAKER OF THE U.S. ARMY

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of General Robert Shoemaker of the U.S. Army. For more than 36 years Gen. Shoemaker served his country in many of our most trying times and has honored both his nation and the Army through his long and distinguished military service.

Robert Shoemaker hails from Almont, Michigan. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from West Point in 1946. Early troop assignments included Platoon Leader and Company Commander in Germany from which he went on to serve in Korea. General Shoemaker also served numerous tours in Vietnam and excelled through several echelons of Command.

His hard work did not go unrecognized. General Shoemaker rose to the highest levels of the military and was promoted to four star general and led the U.S. Army Forces (FORSCOM). This command consists of more than 750,000 soldiers, nearly 90 percent of the Army's combat power, and provides expeditionary, campaign-capable land forces to combatant commanders. Under his steady leadership, FORSCOM held fast and true to its motto as "Freedom's Guardian."

Life after retirement for Gen. Shoemaker continues to be one of humble service that feeds his passion to help his fellow man. Gen. Shoemaker has served eight years as the County Commissioner for Bell County, three years as the Heart O' Texas council for the Boy Scouts, and served on the Board of United Way for Texas. Today, Gen. Shoemaker's days are filled with regular attendance at extra-curricular activities in the Killeen-Fort Hood area.

When I reflect on the life and service of Gen. Shoemaker, I am reminded of an oft quoted passage by J. M. Barrie, "the life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is with what he vowed to make it." I have little doubt Gen. Shoemaker will find any discrepancies when he compares his diaries.

TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUT CARL DEAN CARR

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carl Dean Carr of Boy Scout Troop 40 in Des Moines, Iowa, for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the prestigious Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. For his project, Carl worked with the FOCUS program at Hoyt Middle School in Des Moines. FOCUS is a collaborative program between Des Moines Public Schools and Broadlawn Medical Center. They provide academic and counseling services for at-risk students between 3rd and 8th grade. Carl led a group of students that created signs with self-talk statements for a coping area in the school. Students are able to utilize this area when they are having a tough day so they can compose themselves and rejoin the classroom. The work ethic Carl has shown in his Eagle Project and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent Carl and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating him on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, and I wish him nothing but continued success in his future education and career.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF KEVIN MASON

**HON. ROBERT HURT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 21, 2015*

Mr. HURT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Representative BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico and I submit these remarks to commemorate the life of Kevin Anderson Mason, who passed away October 1, 2015 at age 44.

Mr. Mason—a native of Altavista, Virginia who resided with his family in Clovis, New Mexico—was working in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor. On the evening of October 1, 2015, shortly after taking off from the Jalalabad Airfield in Afghanistan, a terrible tragedy occurred when a C-130J crashed, killing six United States airmen and five civilian contractors, including Mr. Mason.

Mr. Mason was a 1990 graduate of Altavista High School and honorably served in the

United States Air Force for ten years. He will forever be remembered by his classmates, teammates, and members of the Altavista community as a warm, welcoming, kind-hearted man. Mr. Mason was a star member of Altavista High School's basketball team, and school principal Ty Gafford and coach Dean Hubbard remember him fondly as a cornerstone of the Altavista community. He left behind a wife of nineteen years, Tammy, who he met while stationed at Cannon Air Force Base in Clovis, New Mexico, and their three sons, KJ, Brandon, and Devin, all of whom currently reside in Clovis.

We are forever grateful for Mr. Mason's years of service in the U.S. Air Force and his continued service and sacrifice in defending our nation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Mason family, the Altavista and Clovis communities that mourn his loss, and with all of the families who lost loved ones in this tragic incident.

#### HONORING GIDEON R. BRADY

#### HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gideon R. Brady from St. James, Missouri for his achievements as a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol. Gideon is set to receive the General Billy Mitchell Award for his service, one of the most prestigious honors that a cadet can earn. This award is only achieved after passing comprehensive leadership and aerospace exams, as well as a strenuous physical fitness test.

Gideon began his service in the Civil Air Patrol in 2013 with a deep interest in aerospace and rockets. An emphasis on service runs in Gideon's family, as his father Terry is a Chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol and proudly guides him as he progresses through the ranks.

Gideon has proven himself to be an exemplary cadet and it is my pleasure to recognize him before the United States House of Representatives.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CORNING CENTER FOR THE FINE ARTS

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Corning Center for the Fine Arts (CCFA) as they celebrate their 10th anniversary bringing art and culture to southwest Iowa.

CCFA, housed in a renovated and repurposed building in Corning, opened its doors on Sept 30, 2005. Its studio and gallery were modeled to create an attractive environment for its artist in residence program and has two renovated apartments above for those artists. Since 2006, the art center has been home to 16 artists that have come from the United States and abroad. CCFA also holds annual student art shows to encourage young people to explore their talents.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent the Corning Center for the Fine Arts and its hard

working employees and volunteers in the United States Congress. I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating them on their 10th anniversary and wishing them nothing but continued success.

#### HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR GUADALUPE LOPEZ, U.S. ARMY, RETIRED

#### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service in both the military and civilian life of Sergeant Major Guadalupe Lopez, U.S. Army, Retired. SGM Lopez has served with distinction as a guardian of this great nation for over 26 years. Today SGM Lopez continues his service to the country he loves in many capacities in the Killeen—Fort Hood community.

SGM Lopez entered the U.S. Army in September 1954. While he served in a multitude of capacities, his fondest memories are of the tour he served in Vietnam. SGM Lopez spent most of his time planning tactical operations against the enemy on the front lines. While in Vietnam, SGM Lopez was awarded the Bronze Star for his heroic actions on Nov 20, 1969 when his helicopter came under heavy fire.

SGM Lopez retired in March of 1980. While the days of a regimented life in uniform have passed, he still finds ways to serve his fellow soldiers. SGM Lopez served as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of America Post Commander for four years. Today SGM Lopez serves as a member of the Ft. Hood Retiree Council, a position assumed in 2008.

SGM Lopez is also well known for his work as the co-chairman of the Killeen Veteran's Day Parade and the Memorial Day Ceremony held at the Central Texas Veteran's Cemetery since 2007. While the long list of accomplishments and service rendered to his fellow soldiers is too lengthy to be enumerated here, I will use SGM Lopez' own words to convey the sense of dedication he has to his friends and veterans: "We are soldiers for life; we hung up only the suit, we're still connected."

I commend SGM Lopez for his selfless service to his nation and to the United States Army. His leadership has positively impacted soldiers and families that he has served. May we all strive to live a life full of service such as his.

#### TAKING ACTION ON EUROPE'S WORST REFUGEE CRISIS SINCE WORLD WAR II

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday I convened a Helsinki Commission hearing to scrutinize the European refugee crisis and help determine the most effective ways in which the U.S., the European Union, and the OSCE can and should respond.

The Syrian displacement crisis that has consumed seven countries in the Middle East has become the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. At least 250,000 people have been killed in Syria's civil war, many of them civilians.

The security forces of Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad's security forces have been responsible for many of these killings, targeting neighborhoods with barrel bombs and shooting civilians point-blank. ISIS has committed genocide, mass atrocities, and war crimes, against Christians and other minorities, and likewise targeted, brutalized and killed Shia and Sunni Muslims who reject its ideology and brutality.

Fleeing for safety, more than four million Syrians are refugees, the largest refugee population in the world, and another 7.6 million Syrians are displaced inside their home country.

Syria's neighbors—Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt—are hosting most of these refugees. Before the Syria crisis, these countries struggled with high rates of unemployment, strained public services, and a range of other domestic challenges. Since the conflict began, Syrian refugees have become a quarter of Lebanon's population, and Iraq, which has been beset by ISIS and sectarian conflict, is hosting almost 250,000 refugees from Syria.

Until this past summer, few Syrian refugees went beyond countries that border their homeland. Syrian refugees and migrants from a range of countries have since come to Europe in such large numbers, and so quickly, that many European countries, especially front-line entry points like Greece, transit countries like Serbia, and destination countries like Germany, have been challenged to respond.

The UN High Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, reports that more than 635,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe by sea in 2015. Fifty three percent of these people are from Syria, sixteen percent from Afghanistan, six percent from Eritrea, and five percent from Iraq. Notably, only fourteen percent of them are women, twenty percent are children, and the remaining sixty five percent are men.

The European crisis requires a response that is European, national, and international, and the United States is essential to it. There must be effective coordination and communication directly between countries as well as through and with entities like the OSCE and European Union. Individual countries also must have the flexibility to respond best to the particular circumstances in their own countries.

The response must address "push" factors, like economic challenges and aid short-falls in countries like Syria's neighbors that have been hosting refugees. It must also address "pull" factors, like decisions individual European countries have made that have attracted refugees.

There is real human need and desperation. Refugees are entrusting themselves to smugglers and where there is human smuggling there is a higher risk of human trafficking. I am especially concerned about the risk of abuse, exploitation, and enslavement, of women and children. Already we are hearing reports that some European countries are failing to protect women and girls from sexual assault and forced prostitution. The lack of separate bathroom facilities for males and females, rooms

that can be locked, and other basic measures, enable such attacks. There is no excuse for such failures and everything must be done to ensure that women and children are safe.

There is also the real threat that terrorist groups like ISIS will infiltrate these massive movements of people to kill civilians in Europe and beyond. I am deeply concerned that the screening at many European borders is inadequate and putting lives at risk. All of us must be responsive to the humanitarian needs without compromising one iota on security. European response plans should include specifics about strengthening security screening throughout the European region.

During the conflict in Kosovo, I travelled to Stenkovec refugee camp in Macedonia and was at the McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey to welcome some of the 4,400 people brought from there to the United States. A refugee—Agron Abdullahu—was apprehended and sent to jail in 2008 for supplying guns and ammunition to the “Fort Dix 5”—a group of terrorists who were also sent to prison for plotting to kill American soldiers at the Fort Dix military installation.

Given Secretary Kerry’s announcement in September that the United States intends to resettle at least 85,000 refugees in fiscal year 2016, including at least 10,000 Syrians, and at least 100,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017, the United States and Europe must be on high alert to weed out terrorists from real refugees. Because religious and ethnic minorities often have additional risks and vulnerabilities even as refugees, they should be prioritized for resettlement.

Tuesday’s hearing examined the “who” is arriving, the “why” they are coming to Europe, and the “what” has been done and should be done in response. European governments, entities like the OSCE and the EU, and civil society all have critical roles to play.

The United States has been the leading donor to the humanitarian crisis inside Syria and refugee crisis in the region. We also have the largest refugee admissions program in the world. However, according to Tuesday’s testimony from Shelly Pitterman, Regional Representative for the UN High Commission for Refugees, “The current inter-agency Syrian Regional Refugee and Resilience (3RP) plan for 2015 is only 41 percent funded, which has meant cuts in food aid for thousands of refugees.”

Globally, he warned, “The humanitarian system is financially broke. We are no longer able to meet even the absolute minimum requirements of core protection and lifesaving assistance to preserve the human dignity of the people we care for. The current funding level for the 33 UN appeals to provide humanitarian assistance to 82 million people around the world is only 42 percent. UNHCR expects to receive just 47 percent of the funding we need this year.”

At the hearing, Sean Callahan, Chief Operating Officer of Catholic Relief Services, said, “As global leaders in the international humanitarian and refugee response, the U.S. and Eu-

rope must heed Pope Francis’ call and find new ways to alleviate the suffering and protect the vulnerable.” I could not agree more. In the 20th and 21st centuries, the United States and Europe have come together to address the great challenges of our time and this is an opportunity to do so again.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 27

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States military strategy in the Middle East.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement’s proposed Stream Protection Rule.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the Internal Revenue Service’s response to Committee recommendations contained in its August 5, 2015 report.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on the Administration’s response to the Syrian conflict.

SVC-217

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency to examine ongoing challenges at the Secret Service and their government-wide implications.

HVC-210

OCTOBER 28

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the United States role and strategy in the Middle East.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of rural banking, focusing on challenges and consequences.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jessica Rosenworcel, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for a term of five years from July 1, 2015.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine realizing the potential of the Department of Energy national laboratories.

SD-138

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security

To hold hearings to examine retirement plan options for small businesses.

SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the state of our nation’s biodefense.

SD-342

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs

To hold hearings to examine Department of Veterans Affairs mental health, focusing on ensuring access to care.

SR-418

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Peter William Bodde, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to Libya, Marc Jonathan Sievers, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Elisabeth I. Millard, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan, and Kenneth Damian Ward, of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service as United States Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, all of the Department of State, and John Morton, of Massachusetts, to be Executive Vice President of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

SD-419

OCTOBER 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Thomas A. Shannon, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Political Affairs).

SD-419